

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SAISD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION

STATUS: ADOPTED



DATE: 9/23/10

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors of The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce adopt the following statement as policy:

STATEMENT: The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports the \$515 million bond election for the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD). The Chamber believes passage of the 2010 bond election is essential to the continued consolidation of schools which allows the District to operate more cost efficiently for their student enrollment projections. The bond will allow the District to fund critical improvements across the district – where some buildings are more than 100 years old, and nearly half are more than 50 years old. The Chamber strongly urges the use of local businesses and professional firms in the execution of the bond projects. The Chamber also urges SAISD to maintain an Bond Oversight Committee for the implementation of these bonds.

BACKGROUND: SAISD’s Long Range Restructure Plan was developed over a two-year period with input from community members, business owners, parents and District staff. The Long Range Restructure Plan seeks to maximize the use of school facilities so the District can direct more of its limited funding to classrooms and student services. Full implementation of Phase 1 requires passage of \$515 million in bond. The bond election was called by the SAISD Board on August 16. Phase 1 of the plan will allow for the consolidation of five schools and provide \$10 million in annual operational savings to the District while investing more resources into all remaining facilities. The bond projects, summarized below, will be presented to voters on the November 2, 2010 General Election ballot.

Project	Budget
Safety and Security Upgrades	\$43.9 million
Technology Upgrades	\$6.2 million
Renovations and Additions	\$347.4 million
Vocation & Career Instruction Enhancements	\$73.8 million
Playgrounds and Athletic Tracks	\$6.1 million
Transportation Efficiencies	\$2.5 million
Alamo Stadium and Convocation Center Renovations	\$35 million

Total	\$515 million
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Reasons for supporting this statement:

1. Passing the proposed bond would help SAISD upgrade facilities, make major renovations, additions and technology upgrades.
2. Bond revenue will provide for new or upgraded facilities for high school career programs and will allow renovation of career technology labs at the middle schools for early career awareness.
3. Annual operating cost savings of \$10 million per year.
4. The Community Advisory Committee is recommending the District monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of instructional programs by a panel of experts to review reports and make recommendations to promote maximum and equitable achievement for all students.
5. The establishment of the SAISD bond oversight committee will monitor and report to the Board and the public the progress of the bond program's implementation. The committee will take measures to assure that public funds and facilities are utilized with maximum efficiency and for the maximum benefit of the District's students and stakeholders.
6. SAISD has one of the lowest tax rates of all the school districts in Bexar County and property owners will not see an increase until 2012 when the average homeowner will pay an additional \$1.58 per month.

Reasons for opposing this statement:

1. Due to the current public school finance structure, SAISD has no alternative plan if the 2010 bond fails to pass voter approval.
2. Questions and concerns have been raised about the inclusion of the Alamo Stadium renovations in the Bond Issue, which the Community Advisory Committee had recommended be a separate Proposition.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Chamber will help support the SAISD Bond Election at membership meetings and other public opportunities. The Chamber will communicate this position to the media, the business community and other Chamber members through publication in The Chamber Today.